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In the Claims:

Listing of all claims:

1-24. (Cancelled.)

1 25. (Previously Added) A welding, cutting or  
2 heating system capable of receiving a range of input  
3 voltages spanning at least two input utility voltages,  
4 comprising:

5 an input circuit configured to receive any input  
6 voltage within the range of input voltages, and configured  
7 to provide a first dc signal;

8 a converter configured to receive the first dc  
9 signal and to provide a converter output, and configured to  
10 receive at least one control input;

11 an output circuit configured to receive the  
12 converter output and to provide a welding, heating or  
13 cutting signal; and

14 a controller, including a power factor correction  
15 circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
16 to the converter.

1 26. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 25,  
2 further comprising an auxiliary power source configured to  
3 receive the any input voltage within the range of input voltages  
4 and configured to provide a control power signal to the  
5 controller.

1 27. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 26,  
2 wherein the auxiliary power source is capable of providing the  
3 control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage,  
4 regardless of the magnitude of the any input voltage.

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1           28. (Previously Added) The system of claim 27,  
2 wherein the output circuit further comprises a pulsed  
3 transformer.

1           29. (Previously Added) The system of claim 28,  
2 wherein the convertor includes a boost circuit.

1           30. (Previously Added) The system of claim 29,  
2 wherein the output circuit includes a pulse width modulator  
3 connected to the transformer.

31. (Cancelled)

1           32. (Previously Amended) A method of  
2 providing welding, cutting or heating current from a range  
3 of input voltages spanning at least two input utility  
4 voltages, comprising:  
5           receiving an input voltage from within the range  
6 and converting it to a first dc bus having a voltage  
7 magnitude higher than the input voltage;  
8           controlling the converting, including power factor  
9 correcting by controlling a switch; and  
10           receiving the dc bus and providing in response  
11 thereto an output current having an output magnitude  
12 suitable for a welding, heating or cutting.

1           33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 32,  
2 wherein converting includes rectifying.

1           34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32,  
2 further comprising deriving auxiliary power from the input  
3 voltage within the range of input voltages and providing the  
4 derived auxiliary power as a power signal to a controller.

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1                   35. (Previously Amended)           The method of claim 34,  
2 wherein providing the derived auxiliary power includes providing  
3 the derived auxiliary power at a preselected control signal  
4 voltage, regardless of the magnitude of the input voltage.

1                   36. (Previously Added)   The method system of claim 34,  
2 wherein providing in response thereto includes pulsing a  
3 transformer.

1                   37. (Previously Added)   The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein converting includes boost converting.

1                   38. (Previously Added)   The method of claim 37,  
2 wherein providing in response thereto further comprises pulse  
3 width modulating the transformer.

39. (Cancelled)

1                   40. (Previously Added)   The method of claim 38 wherein  
2 providing in response thereto further comprises rectifying the  
3 output of the transformer.

1                   41. (Previously Added)   A welding, cutting or  
2 heating system capable of receiving a range of input  
3 voltages spanning at least two input utility voltages,  
4 comprising:  
5                   input means for receiving any input voltage within  
6 the range of input voltages, and for providing a first dc  
7 signal;  
8                   converter means for receiving the first dc signal  
9 and providing a converter output in response to at least one  
10 control input;

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11 output means for receiving the converter output  
12 and providing a welding, heating or cutting signal; and  
13 control means for controlling, including power  
14 factor correcting, the converter means, connected to the  
15 converter means.

1 42. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 41,  
2 further comprising auxiliary power means for providing a control  
3 power signal to the control means in response to receiving the  
4 any input voltage within the range of input voltages.

1 43. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 42  
2 wherein the auxiliary power means is further for providing the  
3 control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage  
4 regardless of the magnitude of the any input voltage.

1 44. (Previously Added) The system of claim 41,  
2 wherein the output means further comprises means for pulsing a  
3 transformer.

1 45. (Previously Added) The system of claim 44,  
2 wherein the convertor means includes means for boosting a  
3 voltage.

1 46. (Previously Added) The system of claim 44,  
2 wherein the output means further includes means for pulse width  
3 modulating the transformer.

47. (Cancelled)

1 48. (Previously Added) A power source for  
2 welding, cutting or heating current, comprising:

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means for receiving and converting an input voltage from a range of input voltages spanning at least two input utility voltages to a first dc bus having a voltage magnitude higher than the input voltage;

means for controlling the means for receiving and converting, including means for power factor correcting by controlling a switch, connected to the means for receiving and converting; and

means for receiving the dc bus and providing in response thereto an output current having an output magnitude suitable for a welding, heating or cutting.

49. (Previously Added) The power source of claim 48, wherein the means for receiving and converting includes means for rectifying.

50. (Previously Amended) The power source of claim 48, further comprising means for deriving auxiliary power from the input voltage and providing the derived power as a power signal to the means for controlling.

51. (Previously Amended) The power source of claim 50, wherein the means for deriving auxiliary power includes means for providing the derived auxiliary power at a preselected control signal voltage, regardless of the magnitude of the input voltage.

52. (Previously Amended) The power source of claim 51, wherein the means for receiving and converting includes means for boost converting to provide the first dc bus.

53. (Cancelled)

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1                   54. (Previously Amended)           A welding, cutting  
2           or heating system capable of receiving a range of input  
3           voltages spanning at least two input utility voltages,  
4           comprising:

5                   a power circuit comprising an input circuit, a  
6           converter and an output circuit, wherein the power circuit  
7           is capable of providing a welding cutting or heating output  
8           without reconfiguring the power circuit;

9                   wherein the input circuit is configured to receive  
10          any input voltage within the range of input voltages, and  
11          configured to provide a first dc signal;

12                   wherein the converter includes a boost circuit and  
13          is configured to receive and boost the first dc signal and  
14          to provide a converter output, and configured to receive at  
15          least one control input;

16                   wherein the output circuit is configured to  
17          receive the converter output and to provide the welding,  
18          heating or cutting signal; and

19                   a controller, including a power factor correction  
20          circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
21          to the converter.

1                   55. (Previously Amended)           The system of claim 54,  
2           further comprising an auxiliary power circuit configured to  
3           receive the any voltage within the range of input voltages and  
4           configured to provide a control power signal to the controller.

1                   56. (Previously Added)   The system of claim 54,  
2           wherein the output circuit further comprises a pulsed  
3           transformer.

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1           57. (Previously Added) The system of claim 56,  
2 wherein the output circuit includes a pulse width modulator  
3 connected to the transformer.

1           58. (Previously Amended) A method of  
2 providing welding, cutting or heating current from a range  
3 of input voltages spanning at least two input utility  
4 voltages, comprising:  
5           receiving an input voltage and converting it to a  
6 first dc bus having a voltage magnitude higher than the  
7 input voltage, without reconfiguring a power circuit;  
8           controlling the converting, including power factor  
9 correcting by controlling a switch; and  
10          receiving the first dc bus and providing in  
11 response thereto an output current having an output  
12 magnitude suitable for a welding, heating or cutting.

1           59. (Previously Added) The method of claim 58,  
2 wherein converting includes rectifying.

1           60. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 59,  
2 further comprising deriving auxiliary power from the input  
3 voltage and providing the derived power as a power signal to a  
4 controller.

1           61. (Previously Added) The method system of claim 60,  
2 wherein providing in response thereto includes pulsing a  
3 transformer.

62. (Cancelled.)

1           63. (Previously Added) A welding, cutting or  
2 heating system capable of receiving a range of input

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3 voltages spanning at least two input utility voltages,  
4 comprising:

5 input means for receiving any input voltage within  
6 the range of input voltages, and for providing a first dc  
7 signal;

8 converter means for receiving and boosting the  
9 first dc signal and providing a converter output in response  
10 to at least one control input without reconfiguring a power  
11 circuit;

12 output means for receiving the converter output  
13 and providing a welding, heating or cutting signal; and

14 control means for controlling, including power  
15 factor correcting, the converter means, connected to the  
16 converter means.

1 64. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 63,  
2 further comprising auxiliary power means for providing a control  
3 power signal to the control means in response to receiving the  
4 any voltage within the range of input voltages.

1 65. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 63,  
2 wherein the output means further comprises means for pulsing a  
3 transformer that receives the converter output.

66. (Cancelled.)

1 67. (Previously Added) A welding, cutting or  
2 heating system capable, comprising:  
3 a power circuit comprising an input circuit, a  
4 converter and an output circuit, wherein the power circuit  
5 is capable of providing a welding cutting or heating output;



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6 wherein the input circuit is configured to receive  
7 at least one input voltage, and provide a converter input  
8 signal to the converter;

9 wherein the converter includes a boost circuit and  
10 is configured to receive and boost the converter input  
11 signal and to provide a dc bus output, and configured to  
12 receive at least one control input;

13 wherein the output circuit is configured to  
14 receive the dc bus, and to provide the welding, heating or  
15 cutting signal;

16 a controller, including a power factor correction  
17 circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
18 to the converter; and

19 an auxiliary power circuit configured to receive  
20 any voltage within a range of input voltages spanning at  
21 least two utility voltages, and configured to provide a  
22 control power signal to the controller.

1 68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 67 54,  
2 wherein the output circuit further comprises a pulsed  
3 transformer.

1 69. (Currently Amended) A method of providing  
2 welding, cutting or heating current comprising:

3 receiving an input voltage and converting it to a  
4 first dc bus having a voltage magnitude higher than the  
5 input voltage;

6 controlling the converting, including power factor  
7 correcting by controlling a switch;

8 receiving the first dc bus and providing in  
9 response thereto an output current having an output  
10 magnitude suitable for a welding, heating or cutting; and

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11                deriving auxiliary power from any voltage within a  
12                range of input voltages spanning at least two utility  
13                voltages, and providing the derived power as a power signal  
14                to a controller.

1                70. (Previously Added) The method of claim 69,  
2                wherein converting includes rectifying.

71. (Cancelled.)

1                72. (Previously Amended)                A welding, cutting  
2                or heating system, comprising:  
3                               input means for receiving any input voltage within  
4                a range of input voltages spanning at least two utility  
5                voltages, and for providing a first dc signal;  
6                               converter means for receiving and boosting the  
7                first dc signal and providing a converter output in response  
8                to at least one control input;  
9                               output means for receiving the converter output  
10                and providing a welding, heating or cutting signal;  
11                               control means for controlling, including power  
12                factor correcting, the converter means, connected to the  
13                converter means; and  
14                               auxiliary power means for providing a control  
15                power signal to the controller in response to receiving the  
16                any voltage

73. (Cancelled.)

1                74. (Previously Amended)                A welding, cutting  
2                or heating power source capable of receiving a range of  
3                input voltages, comprising:

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an input rectifier configured to receive an ac input, wherein the range includes a highest magnitude and a lowest magnitude, and wherein the highest magnitude is at least twice the lowest magnitude, and wherein the rectifier is configured to provide a first dc signal;

a boost converter connected to receive the first dc signal and provide a second dc output across a dc bus comprising a positive bus and a negative bus, wherein the boost converter is configured to receive at least one control input, and wherein the boost converter includes a boost inductor having a first end in electrical communication with the rectifier, and the boost inductor has a second end in electrical communication with a switch, wherein when the switch is closed the second end is in electrical communication with negative bus, and wherein the second end is in electrical communication with a diode, and the diode is further in electrical communication with the positive bus, such that current can flow from the second end through the diode to the positive bus;

a pulse width modulator connected to receive the dc bus and provide a pulsed signal;

an output transformer, having a primary connected to receive the pulsed signal and to provide an output signal having a current suitable for welding or cutting on a secondary;

a controller, including a power factor correction circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal to the converter; and

an auxiliary power source capable of providing a control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage, for a plurality of input voltages.

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1                   75. (Previously Amended)           A method of  
2     providing welding, cutting or heating power from a range of  
3     input voltages, comprising:  
4                 rectifying an ac input, wherein the range includes  
5     a highest magnitude and a lowest magnitude, and wherein the  
6     highest magnitude is at least twice the lowest magnitude,  
7     and wherein the rectifier is configured to provide a first  
8     dc signal;  
9                 boost converting the first dc signal to a second  
10    dc output across a dc bus comprising a negative and positive  
11    bus, including receiving at least one control input, and  
12    boosting through a boost inductor having a first end in  
13    electrical communication with a rectifier, and a second end  
14    in electrical communication with a switch, wherein when the  
15    switch is closed the second end is in electrical  
16    communication with negative bus, and wherein the second end  
17    is in electrical communication with a diode, and the diode  
18    is further in electrical communication with the positive  
19    bus, such that current can flow from the second end through  
20    the diode to the positive bus;  
21                 pulse width modulating the dc bus to provide a  
22    pulsed signal;  
23                 transforming the pulsed signal to provide an  
24    output signal having a current suitable for welding or  
25    cutting;  
26                 controlling the boost converting to power factor  
27    correct; and  
28                 providing auxiliary power at a control power  
29    signal at a preselected control signal voltage, for a  
30    plurality of input voltages.

76-94. (Cancelled.)

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1           95. (Previously Added) A welding or cutting power  
2 source, comprising:  
3           an input circuit configured to receive an input having  
4 a magnitude over a range of inputs, wherein the range  
5 includes a highest magnitude at least twice a lowest  
6 magnitude, and to provide a first dc signal;  
7           a boost converter, including a boost inductor connected  
8 to receive the first dc signal, wherein the boost converter  
9 has a dc bus output;  
10          an output circuit configured to receive the dc bus  
11 output and to provide a welding or cutting signal; and  
12          a controller, including a power factor correction  
13 circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
14 to the boost converter.

1           96. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 95,  
2 further including an auxiliary power source capable of providing  
3 a control power signal at a preselected control signal voltage  
4 for a plurality of magnitudes of the input signal.

1           97. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 96,  
2 wherein the auxiliary power source includes an auxiliary  
3 transformer with a plurality of primary taps.

1           98. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 95,  
2 wherein the output circuit includes a switched circuit connected  
3 across the dc bus, and a transformer having a primary connected  
4 in the switched circuit.

1           99. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 98,  
2 wherein the switched circuit is a pulse width modulator.

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1                   100. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 98,  
2 wherein the output circuit includes an output rectifier connected  
3 to a secondary of the transformer.

1                   101. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 100,  
2 wherein the switched circuit includes an inverter.

1                   102. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 100  
2 wherein the output circuit includes an inductor connected to the  
3 output rectifier.

1                   103. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 95  
2 wherein the output circuit includes a cycloconverter.

1                   104. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 103,  
2 further comprising a first output stud connected to the inductor,  
3 and disposed to be connected to one of a torch and a ground  
4 clamp, and a second output stud, disposed to be connected to the  
5 other of the torch and a ground clamp.